

August 28, 2006

980014

SUBJECT: FSP – Minnesota – ABAWD Waiver

TO: Tim English
Regional Director
Food Stamp Program
Midwest Regional Office

This is in response to your August 8, 2006, memorandum forwarding a request from the State of Minnesota to modify and to extend waiver 980014. We are approving this request effective October 1, 2006.

Please find attached our detailed response. Please contact Susan Burgess if you have questions or need additional information.

/s/

Patrick Waldron, Chief
Certification Policy Branch
Program Development Division

Attachment(s)

cc: All Regions (except MWRO) w/Attachment
Dan Wilusz, QC, PAD w/Attachment
Bob Dalrymple, OANE w/Attachment

DRAFT:FNS:FSP:PDD:CPB:SBurgess:8/22/06

DIR:I:CPB:Waivers:FY2007:980014 MN ABAWD 2007 ext: final approval:SBurgess

Symbol	Surname	Date	Symbol	Surname	Date

WAIVER RESPONSE

1. **Waiver Serial Number:** 980014
2. **Type of Request:** Extension and Modification
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:** N/A
5. **State:** Minnesota
6. **Region:** Midwest
7. **Regulatory Requirement:** 7 CFR 273.24 provides that no individual shall be eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; did not participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; did not participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State; or received benefits because they were exempt from these requirements.

7 CFR 273.24(f) also provides that, upon the request of a State Agency, the Secretary may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if the Secretary makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Description of proposed alternative procedures:** The State is requesting a waiver of the regulatory requirements listed in paragraph 7 for the counties listed below, based upon the county having an average unemployment rate that is at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 24-month period:

Region & Counties	Average Unemployment Rate July 2004 – June 2006
Itasca County	6.1
Koochiching County	6.1
Cass County	6.2
Clearwater County	10.0
Marshall County	7.2
Red Lake County	6.8
Wadena County	6.6
Kanabec County	6.7
Mille Lacs County	6.5
Pine County	6.3

National Average July 2004-June 2006: 5.1%
20% above National Average: 6.1%

9. **Action and reason for approval or denial:** We are approving the waiver for the jurisdictions listed in paragraph 8 in accordance with the request submitted by the State. All of the data submitted by the State meets the requirements of approval pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3) and additional FNS guidance.
10. **Regulatory or legislative basis for action:** This waiver is approved pursuant to 7 CFR 273.24(f)(3)(i), 273.24(f)(3)(ii), and 273.24(f)(3)(iii).
11. **Conditions and reasons:** None.
12. **Information required for extension:** To receive an extension the State agency must provide data or other information as described in 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2) and 273.24(f)(3). If Minnesota wishes to receive an extension based on unemployment rates, they must provide us with all supporting documentation, including spreadsheets in digital form.
13. **Expiration date:** This extension and modification for waiver number 980014, is effective October 1, 2006 and will expire on September 30, 2007.
14. **Limitation, if any, on regional office approval of like requests:** These waivers are limited to the Minnesota State Agency.
15. **Quality control procedures:** None.
16. **Date of national office action:**
17. **Date of State agency's request:** August 2, 2006
18. **Date of regional office transmittal of request:** August 8, 2006
19. **Date of regional office transmittal of response to State agency:**
20. **Actual implementation date:**